Halperin, Haig Gave 'Leak' Denied It

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By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

National Security Council aides Alexander Haig and Morton Halperin were standing outside Henry Kissinger's White House office in May, 1969, when President Nixon's press secretary told them Mr. Nixon was disturbed about a story in The Washingto Post.

The press aide, Ron Ziegler, asked Haig and Halperin if they knew who had given the story to Washington Post reporter Chalmers Roberts, according to Halperin's version of the incident.

"Haig and I exchanged a glance which I took to acknowledge what we both knew, namely that Dr. Kissinger had spent considerable time with Roberts the day before the story," Halperin has testified in court documents.

But, Halperin continued, "Both Haig and I told Ziegler that we had no idea where the story might have come from."

The incident was recounted by Halperin in answers to questions from U.S. attorneys in connection with the former NSC aide's suit charging Kissinger, Nixon and numerous other former and current high government officials with illegally bugging Halperin's home telephone.

Halperin was one of 17 newsmen and government official whose telephones were wiretapped beginning in 1969 as a part of a government program to stop suspected leaks of classified information to the press.

Halperin gave his version of the Ziegler confrontation when he was asked by the government to recall any discussions he might remember having with other ing leaks from the National White House aides concern-Security Council.

The tap on Halperin's telephone was placed after a newspaper account of secret bombing raids by the U.S. into Cambodia. He was one of the first four persons tapped in the program.

However, Halperin said in the answers filed in U.S. court that he knew about the Cambodian bombing only for about a month before the tap was placed and that he was not even working on the project in the NSC.

In fact, Halperin continued, the only reason he knew about the bombing was because Kissinger told him about it in a casual conversation in his office.

"Dr. Kissinger told me that knowledge of the camgroup of people," Halperin group of people," Halperin said. "I do not believe he gave me any additional information other than the bare fact that the bombing was being conducted,but he may have mentioned that B-52s were being used."

Halperin did have access to a wide range of classified material in the National Security Council, but the 21-month wiretap on his home telephone never disclosed any leaks, according to materials that have been made